

Lionel Shriver Quotes

*People, Children, Thinking, Mother, Lying, Stories, Country, Years, Apathy,
Important, Attachment, Boys, Successful, Kids, Secret, Passion, Matter, Writing,
Different, Men*

A lot of people get so hung up on what they can't have that they don't think for a second about whether they really want it.

~Lionel Shriver

You can call it innocence, or you can call it gullibility, but Celia made the most common mistake of the good-hearted: she assumed that everyone else was just like her.

~Lionel Shriver

My own apathy is bone chilling.

~Lionel Shriver

In a country that doesn't discriminate between fame and infamy, the latter presents itself as plainly more achievable.

~Lionel Shriver

Funny how you dig yourself into a hole by the teaspoon.

~Lionel Shriver

It's far less important to me to be liked these days than to be understood.

~Lionel Shriver

But what's so great about being a perfectionist?... You do all this work, and then the stuff you've made just pisses you off.

~Lionel Shriver

Giving anyone anything takes courage, since so many presents backfire. A gift conspicuously at odds with your tastes serves only to betray that the benefactor has no earthly clue who you are.

~Lionel Shriver

Reading time is precious. Don't waste it. Reading bad books, or books that are wrong for a certain time in your life, can dangerously turn you

off the activity altogether.

~Lionel Shriver

We need to recognise that slowing population growth is one of the most cost-effective and reliable ways of easing pressure on our environment and securing a sustainable future for us all

~Lionel Shriver

Life is never easy so that is why I never lie about my age. I want credit for every damned year.

~Lionel Shriver

The Web, the great time-killer that had replaced conspicuously passive television with its seductive illusion of productivity.

~Lionel Shriver

So many stories are determined before they start.

~Lionel Shriver

Got nothing to do with trying. You like someone, or you don't. If you're 'trying', you don't.

~Lionel Shriver

Kevin was a shell game in which all three cups were empty.

~Lionel Shriver

Funny how the nature of a normal day is the first memory to fade.

~Lionel Shriver

Only a country that feels invulnerable can afford political turmoil as entertainment.

~Lionel Shriver

Time itself made all things rare.

~Lionel Shriver

For the living, death is thievery.

~Lionel Shriver

Children live in the same world we do. To kid ourselves that we can shelter them from it isn't just naive it's a vanity.

~Lionel Shriver

When you've been afraid of something for long enough and it comes to pass, the terrible thing is a release. For in the belly of the badness there is no more fear.

~Lionel Shriver

it is always difficult to impress the ignorant.

~Lionel Shriver

Size is relative. If everyone is fat, no-one is fat

~Lionel Shriver

Worse, the deadly accuracy of filial faultfinding is facilitated by access, by trust, by willing disclosure, and so constitutes a double betrayal.

~Lionel Shriver

I didn't care about anything. And there's a freedom in apathy, a wild, dizzying liberation on which you can almost get drunk. You can do anything. Ask Kevin.

~Lionel Shriver

I am vain, or once was, and one of my vanities was to feign that I was not.

~Lionel Shriver

...some people coddle their own afflictions the way others spoil small

pedigreed dogs with cans of pate.

~Lionel Shriver

...hoarders of guilty secrets are inevitably consumed with appearances.

~Lionel Shriver

I have never in all my life considered you other people.

~Lionel Shriver

You were always uncomfortable with the rhetoric of emotion, which is quite a different matter from discomfort with emotion itself.

~Lionel Shriver

The only way my head was going truly somewhere else was to travel to a different life and not a different airport.

~Lionel Shriver

The most sumptuous experience of ingestion is in-between: remembering the last bite and looking forward to the next one.

~Lionel Shriver

The fact that my clothing has been visually available to other people I do not find upsetting. The body is another matter. It is mine; I have found it useful; but it is an avatar.

~Lionel Shriver

I seem to remember even from when I was very young that when you loved someone you also hated them for making you love them, since loving someone is so incredibly humiliating.

~Lionel Shriver

For that matter, thinking of one's self as exceptional is probably more the rule than not.

~Lionel Shriver

Maybe the greatest favour a spouse can tender is to overlook what you can't.

~Lionel Shriver

Notoriety is cheap. It's just easier to get noticed by doing something bad.

~Lionel Shriver

You can't be stylish and petty at the same time.

~Lionel Shriver

It was important to me to put together a future history that would scan, and serve as the backdrop to the domestic story. Economics is really what drives the plot.

~Lionel Shriver

A boy is a dangerous animal.

~Lionel Shriver

The good life doesn't knock on the door. Joy is a job.

~Lionel Shriver

How lucky we are, when we're spared what we think we want!

~Lionel Shriver

I have no end of failings as a mother, but I have always followed the rules.

~Lionel Shriver

The secret is that there is no secret.

~Lionel Shriver

That boy hardly needed a mask when his naked face was already impenetrable.

~Lionel Shriver

But indifference would ultimately commend itself as a devastating weapon.

~Lionel Shriver

I was suffering from the delusion that it's the thought that counts.

~Lionel Shriver

It's an apathy so absolute that it's like a hole you might fall in.

~Lionel Shriver

People seem to get used to anything, and it is a short step from adaptation to attachment.

~Lionel Shriver

The discovery that heartbreak is indeed heartbreaking consoles us about our humanity.

~Lionel Shriver

Change is like that: you are no longer where you were; you are not yet where you will get; you are nowhere exactly.

~Lionel Shriver

Not that happiness is dull. Only that it doesn't tell well. And of our consuming diversions as we age is to recite, not only to others but to ourselves, our own story.

~Lionel Shriver

It is never persuasive to argue that you are not the kind of person who does what you are actually doing.

~Lionel Shriver

However gnawing a deficiency, satiety is worse... We are meant to be

hungry.

~Lionel Shriver

Secrets bind and separate in strict accordance with who's in them .

~Lionel Shriver

...whenever a woman describes a man as sweet, the dalliance is doomed.

~Lionel Shriver

The existence of other people is essentially awkward.

~Lionel Shriver

Expectations are dangerous when they are both too high and unformed.

~Lionel Shriver

Half an ear cocked, something in me, all night, every night, is waiting for you to come home.

~Lionel Shriver

I was mortified by the prospect of becoming hopelessly trapped in someone else's story.

~Lionel Shriver

I thought at the time that I couldn't be horrified anymore, or wounded. I suppose that's a common conceit, that you've already been so damaged that damage itself, in its totality, makes you safe.

~Lionel Shriver

I am in flight from my story every day, and it dogs me like a faithful stray.

~Lionel Shriver

Built like an oak tree, against which I could pitch my pillow and read; mornings, I could curl into the crook of your branches.

~Lionel Shriver

Though surely to avoid attachments for fear of loss is to avoid life.

~Lionel Shriver

When Mexico enjoys an economic boom while the U.S. is in dire fiscal straights, it seemed perfectly credible that Mexico would not roll out the welcome mat for unemployed Americans.

~Lionel Shriver

Though it may be more romantic to picture the bereaved as gaunt, I imagine you can grieve as efficiently with chocolates as with tap water.

~Lionel Shriver

We'd been assured it wouldn't be painful, though she might experience 'discomfort,' a term beloved of the medical profession that seems to be a synonym for agony that isn't yours.

~Lionel Shriver

Lovers communicate not inside sentences, but between them. Passion lurks within interstice. It is grouting rather than bricks.

~Lionel Shriver

Desire is one of the burning experiences of human life.

~Lionel Shriver

In the big picture I write for an audience of people I've never met. By the final draft I'm looking for anything in the prose that's prospectively boring to strangers.

~Lionel Shriver

[Children] would have messed up my apartment. In the main, they are

ungrateful. They would have siphoned too much time away from the writing of my precious books.

~Lionel Shriver

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